<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

1. (Currently amended) An interactive television contextual content surfing system comprising:

creating apparatus, which creates <u>interactive television</u> program content for hyperlinking to other program content;

broadcast apparatus which <u>broadcasts the</u> ~~broadcast~~ interactive television program content with hyperlinks to <u>the</u> other <u>program</u> content;

receiver apparatus which receives and processes the interactive television program content with hyperlinks for display to a viewer; and

enabling apparatus, which enables ~~a~~ <u>the</u> viewer to hyperlink from ~~a program~~ <u>interactive television program content</u> being viewed to a related program, the related program being selected by the system based on a profile of the viewer and a program classification category of the <u>interactive television</u> program <u>content</u> being viewed;

wherein the profile of the viewer is deduced by the system from television viewing habits of the viewer, and the program classification category is selected by the system from a plurality of classification categories for the <u>interactive television</u> program <u>content</u> being viewed <u>independent of viewer input</u>.


2. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 1 wherein the enabling apparatus enables the viewer to hyperlink from a scheduled or recorded program to a related program.


3. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 1 wherein the enabling apparatus enables the viewer to hyperlink to a recording dialog when a related program may be in progress, previously recorded or scheduled or broadcast in the future.


4. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 1 ~~further comprising:~~ <u>wherein the</u> broadcast apparatus ~~which~~ transmits ~~audio/video~~ <u>the interactive television</u> program content and <u>the</u> program ~~classification,~~ <u>classification category</u> together or in separate channels to the receiver <u>apparatus</u>; and

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wherein the control apparatus, which apparatus enables the viewer to interact with the interactive television program content and the program classification.

5. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 1 further comprising:

control apparatus at the receiver apparatus which groups program content by deduction based on the profile of the viewer comprising viewer television habits or information provided by the viewer.

6. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 1 further comprising: wherein the receiver apparatus which provides alternative hyperlinking of program content.

7. (Currently amended) An interactive television contextual content surfing system using inter-channel hyperlinking, comprising:

a content creation station generating and transmitting interactive television program information and classification information in a as streaming data streaming format;

a television broadcast station for receiving the streaming data;

a broadca st server for processing classification categories in the streaming data and hyperlinking program information in related categories;

a network coupled to the television broadcast station for transmitting in separate channels the interactive television program information and the classification information to a local television station for retransmission to television devices equipped with set-top boxes or for directly transmitting the interactive television program information and the classification information directly to the set-top boxes; and

viewer means including an interface enabling a viewer to view a program in a classification category and using a hyperlink to switch to a new program related to the one a program being viewed, the new program being selected by the system based on a profile of the viewer and a program classification category of the program being viewed;

wherein the profile of the viewer is deduced by the system from television viewing habits of the viewer, and the program classification category is selected by the system from a plurality of classification categories for the program being viewed independent of viewer input.

8. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 7 further comprising:

storing apparatus ~~included~~ in the broadcast server ~~and~~ that stores a dynamic table of correspondence between ~~television program~~ the classification categories and television channel numbers.

9. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 7 further comprising:

server apparatus which creates a hyperlink list of channels that are broadcasting the same nature of programs by referencing ~~the~~ a correspondence table.

10. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 7 further comprising:

server apparatus which transmits the hyperlink information to the set-top box on a separate channel.

11. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 7 further comprising:

set-top box apparatus which stores television broadcasts by classification categories ~~of programs~~ in a first classification table.

12. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 7 further comprising:

set-top box apparatus which stores classification categories ~~of program~~ in a television program guide in a second classification table.

13. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 7 further comprising:

local storing apparatus in the set-top box which stores recorded programs and ~~classifies~~ classification categories ~~of programs~~ in a third classification table.

14. (Currently amended) A method for interactive television contextual content surfing using inter-channel hyperlink, comprising the steps of:

creating program content including a description of at least one of program type, producers and players, for classification purposes;

transmitting the program content in a streaming data format to a broadcast station and a broadcast server;

generating a correspondence table between ~~television~~ program <u>classification</u> categories and television channel numbers in the broadcast server;

creating ~~a~~ hyperlink information of channels that are broadcasting the same nature of programs by referencing the correspondence table;

broadcasting the hyperlink information to ~~the~~ <u>a</u> list of channels in the correspondence table;

transmitting ~~the~~ broadcast program information to a television device including a set-top box via a first channel;

transmitting the hyperlinking information to the set-top box via a second channel;

processing the ~~broadcast~~ hyperlinking information by the set-top box for display on a television screen; and

hyperlinking from a program being viewed to a related program, the related program being selected based on a profile of ~~the~~ <u>a</u> viewer and a program classification category of the program being viewed;

wherein the profile of the viewer is deduced from television viewing habits of the viewer, and the program classification category is selected from a plurality of classification categories for the program being viewed <u>independent of viewer input</u>.


15. (Canceled)


16. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 14 further comprising the step of

creating a hyperlink list of channels that are broadcasting the same nature of programs by referencing the correspondence table.

17. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 14 further comprising the step of

storing a dynamic table of correspondence between <u>the</u> ~~television~~ program <u>classification</u> categories and <u>the</u> television channel numbers.

18. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 14 further comprising the step of:

storing recorded programs in a local storage and <u>the program classification</u> ~~classifying~~ categories ~~of programs~~ in <u>the</u> local storage in a third classification table.

19. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 14 further comprising the step of:

storing television broadcasts by <u>program classification</u> categories ~~of programs~~ in a first classification table including a television program guide in the set-top box.

20. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 14 further comprising the step of:

transmitting in separate channels ~~television~~ <u>the</u> program <u>content</u> ~~information~~ and <u>program</u> classification <u>categories</u> ~~information~~ to a local television station for retransmission to television devices equipped with set-top boxes or directly transmitting the program <u>content and program</u> <u>classification categories</u> ~~information~~ directly to the set-top boxes.

21. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 14 further comprising the step of:

generating and transmitting ~~interactive~~ <u>the</u> program <u>content</u> ~~information~~ and <u>program</u> classification <u>categories</u> ~~information~~ in a data-streaming format.

22. (Currently amended) A program medium, executable in a computer system for interactive television contextual content surfing using inter-channel hyperlink, comprising:

program instructions in the medium which creates program content including a description of at least one of program type, producers and players, for classification purposes;

program instructions in the medium which transmit the program content in a streaming data format to a broadcast station and a broadcast server;

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program instructions in the medium which generates a correspondence table between ~~television~~ program <u>classification</u> categories and television channel numbers in the broadcast server;

program instructions in the medium, which creates a hyperlink information of channels that are broadcasting the same nature of programs by referencing the correspondence table;

program instructions in the medium, which broadcasts the hyperlink information to the list of channels in the correspondence table;

program instructions in the medium, which transmits ~~the broadcast,~~ <u>broadcast</u> program information to a television device including a set-top box via a first channel;

program instructions in the medium which transmits the hyperlinking information to the set-top box via a second channel;

program instructions in the medium which processes the ~~broadcast~~ hyperlinking information by the set-top box for display on a television and;

program instructions in the medium, which hyperlinks from a program being viewed to a related program, the related program being selected by the system based on a profile of ~~the~~ <u>a</u> viewer and a program classification category of the program being viewed;

wherein the profile of the viewer is deduced by the system from television viewing habits of the viewer, and the program classification category is selected by the system form a plurality of classification categories for the program being viewed <u>independent of viewer input</u>.


23. (Canceled)


24. (Previously presented) The program medium of Claim 22 further comprising:

creating a hyperlink list of channels that are broadcasting the same nature of programs by referencing the correspondence table.


25. (Currently amended) The program medium of Claim 22 further comprising:

storing a dynamic table of correspondence between <u>the</u> ~~television~~ program <u>classification</u> categories and <u>the</u> television channel numbers.


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26. (Currently amended) The program medium of Claim 22 further comprising:

storing recorded programs in a local storage and ~~classifying~~ the program classification categories ~~of programs~~ in local storage in a third classification table.

27. (Currently amended) A program medium, executable in an interactive television computer system for contextual content surfing, comprising:

program instructions which create interactive television program content for hyperlinking to other program content;

program instructions which ~~broadcast~~ broadcasts the interactive television program content with hyperlinks to the other program content;

program instructions which receives and processes the interactive television program content with hyperlinks for display to a viewer; and

program instructions, which enables the viewer to hyperlink from ~~a program~~ interactive television program content being viewed to a related program, the related program being selected by the system based on a profile of the viewer and a program classification category of the interactive television program content being viewed;

wherein the profile of the viewer is deduced by the system from television viewing habits of the viewer, and the program classification category is selected by the system from a plurality of classification categories for the interactive television program content being viewed independent of viewer input.

28. (Previously presented) The program medium of Claim 27 further comprising:

program instructions, which enables ~~a~~ the viewer to hyperlink from a scheduled or recorded program to a related program.

29. (Previously presented) The program medium of Claim 27 further comprising:

program instructions which enables ~~a~~ the viewer to hyperlink to a recording dialog when a related program may be in progress, previously recorded or scheduled or broadcast in the future.

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30. (Currently amended) The program medium of Claim 27 further comprising:

program instructions which broadcasts ~~audio/video~~ the interactive television program content and ~~the~~ program ~~classification,~~ classification category together or in separate channels to ~~the~~ a receiver; and

program instructions, which enables the viewer to interact with the interactive television program content ~~and the program classification~~.

31. (Currently amended) The program medium of Claim 27 further comprising:

program instructions which groups program content at ~~the~~ a receiver by deduction based on the profile of the viewer comprising ~~viewer television habits or~~ information provided by the viewer.

32. (Previously presented) The program medium of Claim 27 further comprising:

program instructions, which provides alternative hyperlinking of program content.

33. (Currently amended) A method for contextual content surfing in an interactive television computer system, comprising the steps of:

creating interactive television program content for hyperlinking to other program content;

broadcasting the interactive television program content with hyperlinks to the other program content;

receiving and processing the interactive television program content with hyperlinks for display to a viewer; and

enabling the viewer to hyperlink from ~~a~~ interactive television program content being viewed to a related program, the related program being selected by the system based on a profile of the viewer and a program classification category of the interactive television program content being viewed;

wherein the profile of the viewer is deduced by the system from television viewing habits of the viewer, and the program classification category is selected by the system from a plurality of

classification categories for the <u>interactive television</u> program <u>content</u> being viewed <u>independent of viewer input</u>.

34. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 33 further comprising the step of:

enabling a̶ <u>the</u> viewer to hyperlink from a scheduled or recorded program to a related program. .

35. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 33 further comprising the step of:

enabling a̶ <u>the</u> viewer to hyperlink to a recording dialog when a related program may be in progress, previously recorded or scheduled or broadcast in the future.

36. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 33 further comprising the step of:

broadcasting a̶u̶d̶i̶o̶/̶v̶i̶d̶e̶o̶ <u>the interactive television</u> program content and <u>the</u> program c̶l̶a̶s̶s̶i̶f̶i̶c̶a̶t̶i̶o̶n̶,̶ <u>classification category</u> together or in separate channels to t̶h̶e̶ <u>a</u> receiver; and interacting with the <u>interactive television</u> program content a̶n̶d̶ ̶t̶h̶e̶ ̶p̶r̶o̶g̶r̶a̶m̶ ̶c̶l̶a̶s̶s̶i̶f̶i̶c̶a̶t̶i̶o̶n̶.

37. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 33 further comprising the step of:

grouping program content at the receiver by deduction based on v̶i̶e̶w̶e̶r̶ ̶t̶e̶l̶e̶v̶i̶s̶i̶o̶n̶ ̶h̶a̶b̶i̶t̶s̶ ̶o̶r̶ information provided by the viewer.

38. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 33 further comprising the step of:

providing alternative hyperlinking of program content.

39. (Currently amended) A broadcast server in a television system, comprising:.

a correspondence table storing means for <u>storing</u> a dynamic table of correspondence between t̶e̶l̶e̶v̶i̶s̶i̶o̶n̶ program <u>classification</u> categories and television channel numbers;

creation means for hyperlinking information which contains a list of channels broadcasting the same nature of program by referencing the correspondence table, and

transmitting means for <u>transmitting</u> the hyperlinking information to television devices whereby upon successfully processing the ~~broadcast~~ hyperlinking information for display on a television screen a viewer surfs among the channels specified in the hyperlinking information as selected by the system based on a profile of the viewer and a program classification category of ~~the~~ <u>a</u> program being viewed;

wherein the profile of the viewer is deduced by the system from television viewing habits of the viewer, and the program classification category is selected by the system from a plurality of classification categories for the program being viewed <u>independent of viewer input</u>.

40. (Currently amended) A method for surfing hyperlinked information in a television system, comprising the steps of:

forming dynamic correspondence information of ~~television~~ program <u>classification</u> categories and television ~~channels number~~ <u>channel numbers</u>;

creating hyperlinking information which contains a list of channels broadcasting the same nature of program by referencing the correspondence table, and

transmitting the hyperlinking information to television devices whereby upon successfully processing the ~~broadcast~~ hyperlinking information for display on a television screen a viewer surfs among the channels specified in the hyperlinking information as selected by the system based on a profile of the viewer and a program classification category of ~~the~~ <u>a</u> program being viewed;

wherein the profile of the viewer is deduced by the system from television viewing habits of the viewer, and the program classification category is selected by the system from a plurality of classification categories for the program being viewed <u>independent of viewer input</u>.

41. (Currently amended) A receiver for surfing hyperlinked information in a television system, comprising:

storing apparatus, which receives program content including hyperlinks and related channels;

classification information in the storing apparatus which relates program content related to related channels; and

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control apparatus, which enables a viewer to access the classification information and surf among related channels as selected by the system based on a profile of the viewer and a program classification category of ~~the~~ a program being viewed;

wherein the profile of the viewer is deduced by the system from television viewing habits of the viewer, and the program classification category is selected by the system from a plurality of classification categories for the program being viewed independent of viewer input.

42. (Currently amended) A method for surfing hyperlinked information in a television receiver, comprising the steps of:

receiving program content including hyperlinks;

classifying received program content in tables according to the same content; and

enabling a viewer to access the tables and surf among the related content based on a profile of the viewer and a program classification category of ~~the~~ a program being viewed;

wherein the profile of the viewer is deduced from television viewing habits of the viewer, and the program classification category is selected from a plurality of classification categories for the program being viewed independent of viewer input.

43. (Currently amended) A broadcast server in a television system, comprising:.

correspondence information between ~~television~~ program classification categories and television channel numbers;

creation apparatus which creates hyperlinking information of channels broadcasting the same nature of program classification categories by referencing the correspondence information, and

transmitting apparatus which transmits the hyperlinking information to television devices whereby upon successfully processing the ~~broadcast~~ hyperlinking information for display on a television screen, a viewer surfs among the channels specified in the hyperlinking information as selected by the system based on a profile of the viewer and a program classification category of ~~the~~ a program being viewed;

wherein the profile of the viewer is deduced by the system from television viewing habits of the viewer, and the program classification category is selected by the system from a plurality of classification categories for the program being viewed <u>independent of viewer input</u>.

44. (Currently amended) A receiver for surfing hyperlinked information in a television system, comprising:

storing apparatus, which receives program content including hyperlinks and related channels;

classification information of program content related to the same channels; and

control apparatus, which enables a viewer to access the classification information and surf among related channels as selected by the system based on a profile of the viewer and a program classification category of ~~the~~ <u>a</u> program being viewed;

wherein the profile of the viewer is deduced by the system from television viewing habits of the viewer, and the program classification category is selected by the system from a plurality of classification categories for the program being viewed <u>independent of viewer input</u>.